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23 July 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR: Dr. Clarke

SUBJECT : Status Report on COINS Project

1. This report is in the form of a fact sheet for use in connection with the IRAC meeting on Monday, 23 July 1973. OMB has requested (by letter of 14 July 1973 from Mr. Bridgewater to Mr. Colby) that a plan for COINS development and FY-75 funding thereof be available for review prior to November 15, 1973. This letter is at Attachment 1.

2. Responsive to prior initiatives involving OMB, DCI and ASD(I), an interagency group chaired by a representative [redacted] convened last fall and prepared a COINS Report dated 1 February 1973. The recommendations of this report were approved on behalf of the DCI by letter of 9 April 1973 from General Allen to [redacted]

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3. The principal actions recommended by the Report are now being implemented, as follows:

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d. The recommendation to upgrade COINS to the TK level. This upgrading was directed by letter of 9 April 1973 from General Allen to the Directors of DIA, NSA and CIA/NPIC. Technical arrangements to put this decision into effect have been completed and the system is now at a TK level.

e. The recommendation to improve and expand the substantive files included in COINS is being acted upon by means of a Files Selection Working Group. This interagency panel has been meeting

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regularly since April to review the structured files of substantive information maintained by the several agencies and to evaluate their potential for interagency use through COINS. The schedule of this working group calls for their work to be concluded this fall. The implementation of their conclusions, however, depends on the outcome of the efforts (see next paragraph) to upgrade the hardware aspects of the COINS system. // Wm?

f. The recommendation to submit a detailed plan for upgrading the COINS system is being acted upon as follows.

(1) A Computer Netting Group has been established by the COINS Project Manager, [redacted] with DIA and NSA representatives as co-chairmen and with [redacted] serving as technical consultant. A draft report, embodying the concept and details of a plan to restructure COINS communications facilities was submitted to the COINS Project Manager by memorandum of 2 July 1973. In addition, an independent proposal from Bolt Beranek and Newman Inc. has been submitted and is being circulated with the aforementioned draft report. The COINS Project Manager has transmitted these reports, with request for comments and formal concurrences, to the several intelligence agencies, responses to be provided by 13 August 1973. The plan in the draft report includes elimination of the existing central switching device and makes provision for the system to become interactive. FY-74 and FY-75 funding will be required (see para. 4, below). Attachment 2 is the Executive Summary of this plan.

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(3) The COINS Project Manager's people are meeting with COINS Sub-System Managers in the several agencies to collect information leading to the preparation of a Technical Development Plan (TDP). This plan concerns making the practical arrangements for transition from the existing COINS system to the upgraded COINS II system, while maintaining service to customers. It includes budgetary projections for all agencies for several years beginning with FY-75. Funding implications for TDP are not yet known; however, funding needs for the total COINS system appear to relate primarily to (1) and (2) above.

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f. The recommendation that COINS management reporting be strengthened, to allow evaluation of usage, timeliness and effectiveness. The COINS Project Manager states that statistical reporting procedures were completely revamped in January 1973, and that procedures are being developed to measure utility of COINS on a regular basis. Personnel and funding, not now available, will be required to carry out these functions most effectively.

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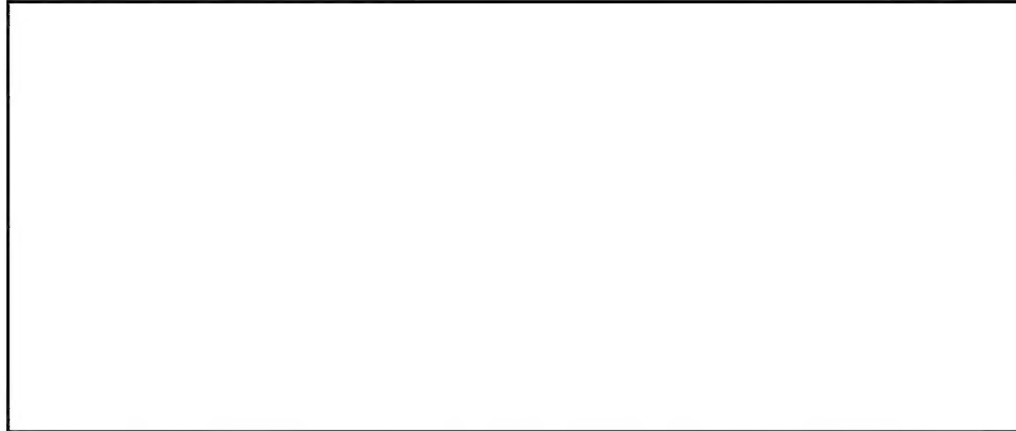
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(6) Additional file storage facilities. The financial projections summarized above do not provide for this contingency. The work of the Files Selection Working Group, to be completed this fall, will provide a further basis for sizing this problem, but no estimates have yet been formulated by the participating agencies relative to these possible costs.

d. Requirements for funding by agencies. The computer netting report (assuming acceptance by the several agencies) calls for the COINS Project Manager's Office to fund the hardware and software for the COINS network and its installation and maintenance, and to provide personnel to operate the Network Control Computer. DIA, NSA and CIA/NPIC are to provide software and personnel to interface their respective computers with the COINS network. DIA, also, is to fund for and manage the interfacing of the IDHSC network with COINS. (See Attachment 2 for further details on these proposed funding arrangements.)

Attachments (2)



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DCI COINS WG Representative  
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